

Rough Draft
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CONTROVERSY OVER OUR SPYING ACTIVITIES

Ladies and gentlemen, this is Senator Dirksen and this is the usual weekly broadcast. There is, however, an extraordinary circumstance about it because I am doing it from the hospital in Washington, D. C.

Early in the week I had a very bad fall and the result was that I fractured or broke a hip bone with the result that there had to be major surgery and I'm still here convalescing. However, I feel quite all right and I did not want the week to go by without doing at least this part of the broadcast notwithstanding the fact that it had to be done from the hospital. Now I do a television series every week also, but it would have been too expensive and too inconvenient to bring the television here to the hospital so that part of it at least I had to apologize for and I could continue with radio.

You've doubtlessly been watching in the newspapers this week the controversy in the Senate over the Central Intelligence Agency. Well the Central Intelligence Agency is an over-all governmental agency which gathers up information of all kinds that can be useful either in peace or in war.

Since time immemorial nations, in order to better deal with competition and with trade secrets in time of peace and also to deal more effectively with war and the strength of enemy nations, has felt it necessary to set up some secret agency that was designed to ferret out the secrets by one man, by one nation as against another.

Now this kind of thing has happened since time immemorial. I believe it was true in the days of ancient China. Over the centuries it has produced of course a rather interesting technique, but basically speaking it's a question of familiarizing oneself or one's country with the techniques and the strength and the weaknesses of an enemy country or a competing country the more effectively to deal with it.

Now in modern times and because of more sophisticated methods this art of spying or espionage was carried to a high degree of efficiency in the days of World War II. Britain for example had her agency known as G. I. France had an intelligence agency that was called the Surete'. Doubtless older people will remember that Germany in time of war and especially so in the time of World War II had a gestapo of which Mr. Himmler was the leader and which carried on all the espionage of a police state.

Now the Soviet Union were probably masters in this field long before the art became perfected. It began with the ancient CHECKA and then it took the name of the OGPU and then it became the NKVD and then it had other names, but in any event it was dreaded not only by the world but by every Russian because this technology was aimed to keep people loyal to their cause, loyal to the country, even though it was a tyrannical despotism.

Now in the United States we started this in the main in World War II with what was known as the Office of Strategic Services. I remember it quite well. General Donovan, Commanding General of the New York National Guard, became I think the first leader of our Office of Strategic Services. When the war was over we had a number of agencies like this and also the Office of War Information, and it became necessary to consolidate them in the interest of economy and efficiency and as a result we set up the so-called Central Intelligence Agency.

Now its intelligence today is not merely a matter of guns and weapons and troops or displacement of troops or the kind of weapons or the kind of factory producing weapons or the training centers or the kind of troops. No, it went way beyond that. Every resource and every asset that a nation could employ in the interest of a victory was kept under close surveillance. That meant clothing, that meant food and its production, it meant the crop situation in a particular country and whether they could subsist themselves. It meant their missile bases and their atomic sites and programs. It meant also reading newspapers and magazines and taking clippings from them as well as from trade magazines in order to make sure that we had the whole story of a people with whom we were dealing as an enemy.

It involved I would think the health of a people likewise, their inventive genius, the machinery they could develop, and every thing else, and finally they enveloped the weaknesses of the leaders and their views on any subject because it was essential to know exactly the direction that a nation was taking.

Now I can give you some examples. You remember the Gary Powers Incident, that flier who flew a U2 reconnaissance plane all over the Soviet Union and photographed their missile bases. You may recall that we have photographed atomic installations in China. You may recall also that when Castro was appearing as the might of Cuba and daring us to take action, that we were flying reconnaissance flights over Cuba to locate the missile bases and if possible all details about the missiles that were being installed. That was true also of the flurry that we had in the Dominican Republic when the revolt took place there.

Now to do all these things requires facilities. That means buildings, it means planes, it means equipment, it means a vast variety of nearly everything under the sun and as a result the so-called Central Intelligence Agency has become a huge operation. It was scattered in many buildings in Washington over a long period of time and then Congress appropriated the necessary funds to build one central consolidated building in the country where these activities could be carried on. It has literally thousands and thousands of people. I see this plant quite often because it's enroute on the way when I go home at night and when I come into work in the morning.

Now I said it required people and so it does. In fact thousands of people of all types. They must be specialists in many fields. They have to know language. As an example, they have to have technical knowledge, they must be schooled in the field of espionage, they must be photographers of a high art, they must be analysts of facts and circumstances and conditions and they must be able to interpret these facts and conditions in the form of those so-called conditions that must be met in peace time or in war time.

Now obviously all this requires secrecy. The thousands of people working for CIA are not expected to let others know who they are, where they work. They must not talk. If in war time they are captured, they are expected to withstand punishment and sweating and not disclose any information. They must be people of good habit and they are thoroughly investigated as to whether they drink, whether there is any weakness like sex deviation, whether they have loose tongues, whether they go in for disclosures when they are visiting with others. All this secrecy is constantly enjoined upon.

Now I remember the days when Admiral Hillenkotter, years ago, was the head of Central Intelligence Agency and never was I so shocked as when I was a guest of a Junior Congressman one night and went to a meeting where he was a speaker. Every member present was presented a question and the Admiral was expected to make an answer at least a minute at length. The reason I shuddered was I thought who in that room might be listening in, who might have bugged that room with some gadget or device and taken down all the questions and all the answers. To me it was absolutely unbelievable and mainly so because the more diffused such information becomes the weaker is our intelligence. I said a thousand times that I don't believe a nation has adequate intelligence unless it's absolutely tight and unless it's absolutely secret.

You see there is a strange thing about an individual. Let him go out home and make a speech and in due course they will be saying to him, well now that was a very pretty speech. But now tell us the facts of life. Tell us all the secrets of Washington and there is always the danger, the disposition, because of that weakness in the human being that he may disclose something.

I discovered that even in army days, when one of my functions was to censor mail, had to do that on the western front at night. Here was a boy who'd write out a 20 page letter to his girlfriend back home filled with such sentimental and enduring terms that you never had to worry about any disclosure but along came a postcard, maybe it didn't have over 60 words on it, dear mom, landed at L Favre, I'm with an artillery outfit, we're going to the front tonight, we're going to start the business at some other place, wherever it might be, and there in the space of 60 words was the whole story of what the military never wanted to have divulged, and so it is with the human being, and if you're going to have more and more people to share in this information. But if you are going to have a congressional panel or a congressional committee that is going to take the Central Intelligence Agency over the coals and to quiz them about their activities, their methods, their targets, and so forth, then in my judgment it is no longer a secret.

They tried to do this ten years ago, it failed. Now the Committee we have of 6 Members is to be enlarged under a resolution by Senator McCarthy of Minnesota. I'm distressed that I'm not on the Senate Floor at the moment because I certainly would join with Senator Russell of Georgia and try to put an end to this resolution to threaten CIA with a larger panel on the ground that it has gotten too important, has developed too much information, and it ought to be curbed. That's one of the fights in the Senate this week.

Well, it's nice talking to you even from the hospital. Thank you so much.